



Washington State Senate
Republican Caucus

21 July 2005

Mr. Rick Day, Director
Washington State Gambling Commission
PO Box 42400
Olympia, WA 98504-2400

Dear Director Day:

You are well aware of my interest in providing fair funding for the treatment of problem gambling. When I was chairman of the Senate Commerce and Trade Committee you testified before me indicating that funding for problem gambling would be the subject of negotiations in the future when compacts were open. I believe that you also stated that when compacts are opened, each side generally receives something.

Please advise what the state received in the latest compact negotiations. Correct me if I am wrong but this latest compact gives the Nooksack Tribe the following:

1. An increased number of machines to operate;
2. An increase in the number of tables they may operate;
3. An increase in the hours of operation; and
4. The automatic amendment.

My reading of the compact indicates that the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) will now be one of the available recipients of the current 0.5 percent of the net win that must be donated to non-tribal charitable organizations. In reality this is no increase in the funds the tribe must contribute and will result in reduced funding for the not-for-profits if they elect to give funds to the DSHS problem gambling program. I was critical of the last negotiations that failed to make any provision for the funding of problem gamblers. I am thoroughly disgusted that the latest negotiations do not provide any improvement in funding for problem gambling.

While the other tribes have contributed sizeable amounts, the Nooksacks have contributed just \$1,000 in 2001, \$1,000 in 2002, and nothing since.

If we're serious about treating problem gambling we must either require the tribes to contribute funding in proportion to their share in the gambling revenues, or decrease the gambling opportunities. The Nooksack Compact does neither.

This is a disgrace!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Honeyford". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Jim Honeyford
State Senator / Republican Caucus Chair
15th Legislative District

cc: Governor Christine O. Gregoire
Legislative Gambling Commission Members:
Senator Margarita Prentice
Senator Jerome Delvin
Representative Alex Wood
State Gambling Commission Members:
Curtis Ludwig
Alan Parker
Janice Niemi
John Ellis
Members of the Senate Labor, Commerce, Research, Development
Comm.
Sam Skolnik, Seattle Post-Intelligencer
Peter Callaghan, Tacoma News Tribune